

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Kindly replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] ~~And~~ Any thermoplastic polymer may be used in the context of the invention.

Examples of thermoplastic polymers that may be mentioned include polyamides, polyesters, polyurethanes, polyolefins such as polyethylene or polypropylene, polystyrene, etc.

Kindly replace paragraph [0030] with the following amended paragraph:

[0030] ~~According~~ According to a fourth particular embodiment of the process of the invention, the expanding agent is chemical compound that can react chemically with the polymer by heating. A gas is generally generated during this reaction, this gas being the cause of the expansion of the blend. These chemical compounds are known to those skilled in the art. Mention may be made, for example, of polycarbonate, which reacts with the polyamide and decomposes to generate carbon dioxide. The chemical reaction takes place during step a). Any method known to those skilled in the art for preparing the composition may thus be used. It is possible, for example to prepare an intimate mixture of the powders of the polymer and of the chemical compound, or a mixture of the polymer granules and of the granules of the chemical compound. The polymer may also be in the form of granules, which are coated with the chemical compound. Another mode of preparation of the composition is slurring of the various compounds.

Kindly replace paragraph [0036] with the following amended paragraph:

[0036] In [[te.]] the context of the invention invention, step a) is advantageously performed in a blending device that can generate a pressure above atmospheric pressure. Step a) is preferably performed in an extruder and more preferentially in a twin-screw extruder.

Kindly replace paragraph [0040] with the following amended paragraph:

[0040] Step a), which consists in extruding the composition through through a die to produce [[yhe]] the expansion, is performed in a standard manner known to those skilled in the art.

Kindly replace paragraph [0050] with the following amended paragraph:

[0050] The pearl obtained obtained according to the process of the invention advantageously has a mass per unit volume of less than or equal to 0.8g/cm₃, preferably less than or equal to 0.5 g/cm₃ and even more preferentially less than or equal to 0.3 g/cm₃. The mass per unit volume of the pearl of the invention is measured according to the protocol described in the experimental experimental section.

Kindly replace paragraph [0060] with the following amended paragraph:

[0060] A mixture of PA66 granules sold by the company Rhodia Technical Fibers under the reference 132J00® (90% w/w) and of polycarbonate granules sold by the company Bayer under the reference Makrolon 2207® (10% w/w) is introduced into a twin-screw extruder sold by the company Leistriz under the name TSA-EMP 26-35®), equipped with an underwater chopping system sold by the company Gala

under the reference LPU Mod 5. The temperature profile on the heating elements of the twin-screw extruder are (in ° C.) 270-280-280-280-280-280, the adaptor is maintained at 272°C. and the die is heated to 330°C. The spin speed of the screws is set at 201 rpm. The extrusion rate is 15 kg/h. The die is composed of a [[sinle]] single orifice 2.4 mm in diameter. The chopping water is maintained at 85°C.

Kindly replace paragraph [0065] with the following amended paragraph:

[0065] A mixture of PET granules sold by the company Wellman under the reference Permaclear VI 84® (85% w/w) and of polycarbonate granules sold by the company GE Plastics under the reference Lexan 121-111® (15% w/w) is introduced into a twin-screw extruder sold by the company Leistritz under the reference TSA-EMP 26-35®, equippee equipped with an underwater chopping system sold by the company Gala under the reference LPO Mod 5. The temperature profile on the heating elements of the twin-screw extruder is (in ° C.) 280-300-315-335-275, the adapter is maintained at 272° C. and the die is heated to 330° C. The spin speed of the screws is set at 200 rpm. The extrusion rate is 15 kg/h. The die is composed of a single orifice 2.4 mm in diameter. The chopping water is maintained at 85° C. The knife holder comprises two knives and the chopping frequency is 2800 rpm.